

SPECIAL SUPERINTENDENTS' WEBCAST

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
April 23, 2020



Agenda

- CARES Act
 - Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program
- Questions and Answers



The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act – Effective March 27

- \$2.2 trillion in emergency funding
- \$30.75 billion in emergency education funding to states
- Kentucky - \$1.73 billion in CARES Act funds
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund - \$44 million
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund - \$193 million
 - KDE is working on a CARES Act Guidance Document
 - U.S. Department of Education (USED) has not yet released full guidance for ESSER or GEER Funds



Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

- Kentucky's allocation - \$43,799,187
- Notice of Funds and Application - March 14
- Governor is expected to file USED application by May 1.
- Expect quick review and approval
- Governor has one year from receipt of funds to make awards
- Governor may award funds to provide:
 - Emergency support to local education agencies (LEAs) the state education agency deems most significantly impacted by coronavirus;
 - Emergency support to institutions of higher education (IHEs) the governor determines are most significantly impacted by coronavirus; and
 - Support to any other IHE, LEA or education-related entity within the state that the governor deems essential for carrying out educational services.



GEER Fund Uses

- Gov. Beshear is allocating \$30 million of GEER funds to support elementary and secondary education.
- All Kentucky school districts are “significantly impacted” by coronavirus.
- GEER funds can be used by districts to support remote learning/technology and school district food service.
- Superintendent Assurance Document – Board notification
- Funds may be used for eligible expenses occurring on or after March 13.
- GEER funds are available for obligation by the receiving entity through Sept. 30, 2022.
- GEER funds cannot be used to replace state aid (SEEK).
 - Must be used for emergency grants to LEAs that are significantly impacted by coronavirus (as determined by the SEA), or to support other education-related entities within the state the governor deems “essential for carrying out emergency educational services.”



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

- Kentucky's grant is approximately \$193 million
- Minimum of 90% to districts
- Distributed through the Title I-A formula
- Anticipated that districts will receive about 83% of what they received in FY 2019 Title I-A funds
- In addition to Title I-A funds - may be expended much more broadly
- USED has not yet released the application or notice of funds – required by April 27



ESSER Fund Uses

LEAs may spend their funds on:

- Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins or McKinney Vento
- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts
- Providing principals and other school leaders with resources to address individual school needs
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including outreach and service delivery
- Procedures and systems to improve LEA preparedness and response efforts
- Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease



ESSER Fund Uses (continued)

LEAs may spend their funds on:

- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements and providing educational services consistent with applicable requirements
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity) for the LEA's students
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs
- Other activities necessary to maintain LEA operations and services and employ existing LEA staff



ESSER Funds Continued

District Assurances

- Assurance document submitted to KDE in GMAP by the superintendent
- Similar to the ARRA process in 2009
- KDE must have this prior to releasing any payment

Payment to Districts

- Utilize the current Federal Cash Request Process
- It is believed that reimbursements will be allowed. However, KDE is awaiting guidance from USED
- Payment advance may be requested for extenuating needs
 - Funds are subject to Cash Management Improvement Act (31CFR Part 205)

Reporting Requirements

- Same as other financial reporting for federal grants
 - Submit MUNIS CDIP reports to KDE
 - USED may require other reporting - TBD



Equitable Services for Non-Public Schools

- Applies to both the GEER and ESSER Funds.
- Additional guidance from USED is anticipated.
- The CARES Act requires LEAs to “provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA.” (Sec. 18005(a))
- Control of CARES Act funds and items purchased with the funds must remain in public control. (Sec. 18005(b))
- Non-public school = a school that is accredited, licensed or otherwise operates in accordance with state law and existed before the emergency was declared. (Sec. 18007(6))



Cares Act COA Guidance for Revenues and Expenditures



Two New Project Numbers:

- **213E** - Cares Act (Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief Funds)
- **213EG** - Cares Act (Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds)

Expenditures

- All expenditure ORGs for Fund 2 or Fund 51 are permitted
- Expenditure object codes will be available once the funding matrix is finalized

Revenues

- **4500** Restricted Grants-in-Aid Federal Revenue through the state with projects 213E & 213EG

CARES Act – Funding Flexibilities to Support Continued Learning

Kentucky's waiver requests approved by USED repurpose resources to areas of highest need:

- Title I, Part A - waive the 15% carryover limitation
- Extend the period of availability of prior fiscal year funds for
 - Title I, Parts A-D
 - Title II
 - Title III, Part A
 - Title IV, Parts A-B
 - Title V, Part B programs
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth program
- Title IV, Part A
 - waive a needs assessment to justify the use of funds;
 - waive content-specific spending requirements;
 - waive spending restrictions on technology infrastructure; and
 - waive the definition of "professional development," which might limit the ability to quickly train school leaders and teachers on topics like effective distance learning techniques.



Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

- **What is P-EBT?**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 provides the secretary of agriculture the authority to approve state agency plans for temporary emergency standards of eligibility and levels of benefits under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

- **Who is eligible?**

Children who would receive free or reduced-price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act if not for the school closure are eligible under this provision. This includes children who receive meals at no cost in a Community Eligibility Provision school.

- **Who will administer P-EBT?**

KDE is working with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to develop a state plan. CHFS would administer benefits with significant collaboration and support from KDE.



P-EBT (continued)

- Upon approval of the state plan, resources will be distributed to school districts for use in communicating with their households.
- School districts can continue to provide meals through the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option. Students may receive meals through federal child nutrition programs while receiving P-EBT benefits.
- P-EBT benefits are based upon the reimbursement rates for breakfast and lunch (\$5.70 per day). The number of days is an average number of days since in-person classes ceased through the end of May 2020.
- Additional information will be distributed as it becomes available and information will be posted on [KDE's COVID-19 webpage](#) under Child Nutrition Programs.



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Questions/Comments

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KDE COVID-19 Webpage

<https://education.ky.gov/comm/Pages/COVID-19-Updates.aspx>

